

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 5028

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, GR
SUBJECT: COURT ORDERS DISSOLUTION OF TWO MONARCHIST ORGANIZATIONS

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. A WEEK AGO AN ATHENS LOWER COURT RULED THAT TWO PRO-MONARCHIST ORGANIZATIONS, THE ROYALIST UNION HEADED BY RETIRED GENERAL GEORGE KOUROUKLIS AND THE ROYALIST NATINAL ALIGNMENT, SHOULD BE DISSOLVED BECAUSE THEY WERE CONTRARY TO PROVISIONS OF THE CONSTITUTION. THE COURT REASONED THAT THE AIMS OF THE ORGANIZATIONS WERE CONTRARY TO THE GREEK CONSITTITUTION WHICH PROVIDEDS FOR A PRESIDENTIAL PARLIAMENTARY REPUBLIC BASED ON POPULAR SEVEREIGNTH. END UNCLASSIFIED.

2. BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL.
THE SUIT IN THIS CASE WAS FILED BY AN INDIVIDUAL-- A LAWYER NAMED MOURIKIS-- WHO APPEARED TO BE ACTING ON HIS OWN BUT WHO, MORE LIKELY, DID SO ON BEHALF OF SOME POLITICAL GROUP WHICH IS CONCERNED ABOUT THE REVIVAL OF PRO-ROYALIST SENTIMENT IN THE COUNTRY.
ALTHOUGH MOURIKIS IS BELIEVED TO HAVE ITES WITH THE CENTER, THERE IS NO BASIS TO BELIEVE HE ACTED FOR THE UNION OF THE DEMOCRATIC CENTER. NOR IS THERE ANY EVIDENCE HE WAS ACTING ON BEHALF OF SUPPORTERS OF THE MAJORITY NEW DEMOCRACY PARTY, AS SOME SUSPECT, IN TAKING
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THIS ACTION.

3. THE ROYALIST UNION ORGANIZATION HAS ISSUED A STATEMENT CHALLENGING THE COURT'S RULING AND INDICATING ITT WILL AWAIT TO BE SERVED FORMALLY WITH THE COURT'S DECISION BEFORE DECIDING ON WHAT LEGAL RECOURSE TO TAKE. THERIGHTIST PRESS HAS RAISED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE CONSTITUTIONAL GROUNDS

CITED BY THE COURT. OTHER GREEK OBSERVERS
ARGUE THAT IF THE COURTS' REASONING IS APPLICABLE WIT
RESPECT TO THESE MONARCHIST ORGANIZATIONS, IT SHOULD ALSO
APPLY TO COMMUNIST ORGANIZATIONS.'

4. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH MOST GREEKS THOUGHT THE DECEMBER
1974 REFERENDUM SETTLED THE QUESTION OF THE MONARCHY, THE
ISSUE IS FAR FROM DEAD INsofar AS DIEHARD MONARCHISTS ARE
CONCERNED. A NUMBER OF ROYALIST ORGANIZATIONS HAVE
SPRUNG UP OVER THE PAST TWO YEARS OR SO, AND THE ROYALIST
UNION WITH ITS LEADER KOUROUKLIS HAS BEEN ONE OF THE MOST VOCAL
OF THESE (ALTHOUGH THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS GROUP SHOULD NOT BE
EXAGGERATED AND, REPORTEDLY, EVEN THE FORMER KING IS
EMBARRASSED BY KOUROUKLIS AND HIS ACTIVITIES). HOWEVER,
NONE OF THESE GROUPS IS AKEN PARTICULARLY
SERIOUSLY OUTSIDE ROYALIST CIRCLES OR HAS DEVELOPED INTO
A POLITICALLY IMPORTANT ORGANIZATTION. AT THE SAME TIME,
HOWEVER, THERE HAS BEEN A CERTAIN RECRUDESCENCE OF ROYALIST
SENTIMENT, ESPECIALLY IN THE TRADITIONALLY CONSERVATIVE
PARTS OF THE COUNTRY, AND THE POTENTIAL FOR THIS BODY OF
PRO-ROYALIST SYMPATHIZERS TO PLAY SOME POLITICAL ROLE
EVENTUALLY CANNOT BE IGNORED.
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